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HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, repealing the historic health care legislation that we passed last year would pull the rug out from under millions of Americans and add billions to the deficit.

We can and should talk about CBO scores, tax credits, and unemployment numbers. But what this health care reform is really about is improving the lives of millions of Americans. It's about children with preexisting conditions who can no longer be denied coverage. It's about senior citizens who can now afford to get screened for diabetes or get a mammogram. It's about working families that no longer have to worry that their insurance will be canceled if they get sick.

It's about people like GERALYN from South Portland, Maine, who wrote to me. She said, "My son turned 19 last May and promptly lost his insurance coverage. He has high blood pressure and had to go to the doctor a number of times to get his medication right. It was a struggle to keep up with the bills. He works two part-time jobs, and that doesn't get him health care. As of December 1, I was able to get him back on my insurance and it is a relief knowing he is covered. If this was repealed, it would hurt my son's health."

That's why we need to stick with the health care plan and vote "no."

HEALTH CARE REFORM REPEAL

(Mr. FINCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FINCHER. When the Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act last year, it was promised that Americans would have better access, more affordable and higher quality care. Instead, ObamaCare created what we all despise and know won't work—more government bureaucracy at taxpayer expense: \$500 billion in new taxes, \$500 billion in Medicare cuts, more government bureaucracy, thousands of new IRS employees.

What we need for the American people is transparency and accountability. Do I need to remind our colleagues that the approval rating of Congress is at an all-time low because we're not listening to the folks?

We were sent here in November to do a job, and that's exactly what we're going to do. We're going to keep our promises we made to the American people, and we're going to hold true to that.

So I stand in favor of repealing the health care bill. We have to create jobs and get our economy moving. If we allow this health care bill to stay in effect, that will not do.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. The gentleman that spoke before me talked about transparency and accountability. Let's talk about the insurance industry pre-reform. They could cancel your policy if you got sick even though you had been paying the premiums for years. They could refuse to sell you a policy if they don't like the way you look or if you've had a minor health problem. We changed that. People can now get health insurance and keep their health insurance if they've been paying their premiums.

But now they want to go back to those bad old days, and they talk about transparency and accountability. How accountable is an industry that is exempt from antitrust law? Health insurance companies can and do collude to exclude people from coverage, to red line, to drive up premiums, to not sell in one State, not compete with one another. There's no free market and competition and transparency and accountability.

If the Republicans really wanted to do something today, and if they want to showboat with this repeal, they could at least replace it by making the industry comply with the same competitive rules as every other industry in America except for professional sports, and that is they would be subject to antitrust law restrictions.

HEALTH CARE REFORM REPEAL

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we all want to increase access to quality, affordable health care. We know that in this troubled economy, Americans are concerned about making ends meet and ensuring that they are covered in the event of a health care emergency.

However, the misguided health care effort that was pushed through this House during the last Congress is doing much more harm than good. The hard-working families and seniors and small businesses in my district cannot afford this health care overhaul that is costing jobs, increasing red tape, spending trillions of dollars, and actually increasing health care costs.

This week the House is listening to and acting upon the message that Americans sent to Washington this past fall. We will replace the overreaching health care law with common-sense solutions that will lower costs and increase access to insurance while keeping Americans in charge of their own health care.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, when the Health Care Reform Act was passed, it had in it section 1560. That section recognizes the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act. Why? Because we have the lowest premiums in the Nation and we have one of the best coverages afforded for that. And why is that? Because we recognized very early on that you need to do a series of things. One, you need to share risks; two, you need to cover everyone; and, three, you need to make things available. Health care has to be available. And for that, we have a great system, a system that still needs to be tweaked, a system that will benefit from the Affordable Health Care Act.

What does that tell you? It took us 36 years to get it right, and we're still working on it. And my colleagues across the aisle want to repeal something that hasn't been around for a year.

Now, the American people do not want that. They want us to learn from when things are done right. Look at what we've done—36 years and we're getting it right. But it's still not perfect. We've got to keep listening, and we've got to hear the people.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, just yesterday I had the privilege of hearing from a Rhode Islander, Alex Lataille, who spoke at the one and only hearing Congress had to discuss the negative effects of repealing the new health care law.

Alex graduated last May with two bachelor's degrees, and while looking for a job after graduation, he is able to afford health insurance because he can stay on his parents' policy. Repealing this law means Alex and millions of Americans will lose their coverage.

I also recently spoke to Beth, a woman from Woonsocket, Rhode Island. She told me she's an insurance agent. She sells insurance every single day, but she's denied access to coverage because of her preexisting condition. Repealing this law would mean she would again be denied access to health care. She said, Please do not let them take my health care.

I was sent here to find practical solutions to solve the problems facing Rhode Island families. Let's work to improve this law, not repeal it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, over the course of the last year and a half as we worked to pass incredibly important protections to Americans, opponents of health care reform continued to try to scare people about what we